

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 38, line 20, as follows:

As described before, the method for deriving the fundamental equations to draw the discharge pressure P_i has already been described in the Specification of Japanese patent application No. 2003-341003 (~~unpublished~~) which was published as Unexamined Japanese Patent Publication No. 2004-141866 (US patent application serial No. 10/673,495). As a result of the subsequent researches that had since been advanced under strict comparison between theoretical values and measured values of discharge pressure, it has been found that the compressibility of the coating fluid has a large effect on the 'sharpness' of the high-speed intermittent discharge in the cases where:

- <1> the frequency of intermittent discharge is set high;
- <2> a multi-head is used;
- <3> an effect of air bubbles mixed into the discharge fluid is not negligible; and
- <4> a high-elasticity material is used.